

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT

TO THE

SOUTH CROSLAND

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR YEAR 1896.

HUDDERSFIELD :

J. BROADBENT & CO., ALBERT PRINTING WORKS, NEW STREET.



REPORT.



GENTLEMEN,

The returns of Births and Deaths as given me by the Registrar for your district during the past year, are as follows :—

The number of births reported is 65, (32 males and 33 females), equal to a rate of 21·0 per 1,000 persons living ; this is a little below the average rate of the past ten years, though slightly in excess of the low rates recorded in 1894 and 1895 of 13·645 and 19·38 per 1,000 respectively. The average rate for England and Wales in the past year is 30 per 1,000, and for the West-Riding of Yorkshire 30·9 in the year 1895.

The deaths reported during the year number 52, (23 males and 29 females), equal to a rate per 1,000 of persons living of 16·795. The average rate for England and Wales during the year was 17·3 per 1,000.

Of these deaths 8 occurred in infants under 1 year, and comparing this with the number of births we have an infantile mortality of 123 per 1,000, as against 166 for the previous year. The average rate for the Administrative County for the year 1895 was 163.

Fourteen deaths occurred in adults over 65 years of age, 27 per cent. of the total number.

From Zymotic diseases 7 deaths are due, equal to 2·26 per 1,000, as opposed to ·974 for the year 1895. The average rate for

the County in 1895 was 2·1 per 1,000 ; 4 of the deaths were due to Whooping Cough, 1 each to Measles, Croup, and Diphtheria.

Deaths at different age periods :—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	8
1 and under 5	..	..	..	..	11
5 „ 15	..	..	..	..	3
15 „ 25	..	..	..	..	2
25 „ 65	..	..	..	..	14
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	14
Of all ages..	..	..	..	..	<hr/>52

The deaths from Pulmonary complaints are, 3 caused by Phthisis (or Consumption), 2 to Bronchitis, and 7 to Pneumonia.

Heart Disease caused 4 deaths. Two are due to general Tuberculosis, 2 to Tubercular Meningitis, 4 to diseases of the Abdominal Organs, 9 to diseases of the Nervous System, Cancer caused 3 deaths, 3 are in Infants prematurely born, and 3 have completed their allotted span and died from natural decay from age. Two cases of Inquest are reported on by the Coroner.

The past year may be generally described as an Epidemic one. Measles, which had prevailed at the close of 1894, and necessitated the closing of the Schools at Netherton and Crosland, continued in the early part of 1895, and caused 1 death. A slight outbreak of Diphtheria occurred in the Square in February, this was supposed to be caused by defective drainage; the drains from the houses were altered and disconnected and made satisfactory, and no more cases occurred. In March, an epidemic of German Measles spread over the township, necessitating the closing of the Schools again, due notice of this was sent to the Local Government Board and the West-Riding County Council as required by them.

Whooping Cough commenced in Netherton in May, and has prevailed more or less during the year, causing 4 deaths.

This was followed by an epidemic of Mumps in June, and of Chicken Pox in September. With one exception (Diphtheria), none of these diseases come under the requirements of the Infectious

Diseases Notification Act, 1889, so that I am not in a position to give you the numbers of those attacked, but so far as I could ascertain they were very considerable.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, 9 cases have been reported to me. Three of Enteric Fever, 3 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Diphtheria, and 1 of Erysipelas. All these cases were carefully enquired into at the time, and suggestions made to you as to the various insanitary conditions found to exist.

Of the Enteric Fever cases, 2 were at Armitage Fold, and 1 at Martin Nest, all ended in recovery and had nothing in common which I could assign as the cause. The cases of Scarlet Fever are all sporadic, ending in recovery, and I have no reason to suppose that there were more than have been notified. Special care was taken in each case to keep the patient isolated until complete recovery. One of the Diphtheria cases ended fatally, they are alluded to in a previous paragraph.

The adoption of this Act by your Council has been of great assistance to me in enquiring into the first cases of epidemic disease and ascertaining any causes which tended to originate or spread the various diseases, it has worked without any friction between the Medical men notifying and Medical Officer, as I am always careful not to allow my enquiries to interfere with the direct management of the case, confining my attentions to the danger of spreading the disease to others.

It would be of advantage if your Council would adopt the *Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act*, 1890, which provides for increased supervision of milk supplies, further disinfection, prompt interment, and gives power to prevent infectious refuse being deposited in ash-pits.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, also increases the sanitary defence against infectious disease, and would be of material advantage to your Authority in other ways. Both these Acts can be adopted in a prescribed way by your Authority.

Your attention has been drawn during the year by the West-Riding County Council to the provisions of the *Isolation Hospitals Act*, 1893, and my opinion was asked by some of your members as to the requirements of your district. I append a small schedule giving the actual number of cases reported to me under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, since its adoption by you in November, 1891; this will give you some estimate of the requirements of your district. Only a proportion of the cases actually reported could be removed to hospital, and the powers of removal given under Sec. 124, Public Health Act, 1875, are of a persuasive rather than compulsory nature, except in the case of those “without proper lodging or accommodation,” and a good deal would depend on the interpretation put upon this term, the public would be a considerable time before they were properly educated to the advantages to be derived from such accommodation.

For statistical purposes I take the population of your district as 3,096, that is allowing the same proportion of increase since the census of 1891 (when the population was given as 3,078), as obtained in the decennial 1881—1891. The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths for the 5 years is 44, and for the 10 years 1881—1891 was 168, but taking the actual returns at each census we find there is a considerable loss which can only be put down to emigration to other parts, partly from healthy adults going elsewhere in search of work and partly from other causes.

INCREASE OF POPULATION.

Year.	Census Return.	Natural Increase. Excess of Births over Deaths.		Actual Increase.
1871	2863	—		—
1881	3049	(1876—1881)	159	(1871—1881) 186
1891	3078	(1881—1891)	168	29
1896	Estimated. 3096	(1891—1896)	44	—

There is very little building of new houses in your district, I am not aware of one new house erected during the last year, so that practically you are at a standstill. The geographical and geological condition of your district may partly account for this. The ground

is mainly agricultural and moorland, the contour is uneven with deep valleys and high table-lands; the altitude varies from 300 feet to 850 feet above sea level at Ordinance datum, the main part of the population being at an elevation of 575 feet and 725 feet. The soil is of a sandy character, underneath which is sandstone rock, generally millstone grit, in some of the lower parts there is a stratum of tenacious clay, the soil and substratum is retentive of moisture, and consequently the climate is damp and cold and conducive to many of those maladies of a tubercular character and generally pulmonary complaints, which form so large a part of the mortality returns of this neighbourhood.

The nuisances found by your Inspector and reported by him from time to time, are mainly in the nature of choked drains and accumulations of refuse; it is very desirable in the interests of health to keep the cottage houses, which form the principal proportion of your township, free from these minor insanitary conditions, so as to promote the health, comfort, and well-being, of the inhabitants of them, and this has been our general aim during the year.

Many of the houses are old and badly constructed and in some parts deserve wholesale condemnation, we have brought before you from time to time, such of the worst as we were able to condemn, and have had such repairs done as made them more habitable and healthy, it ought to be remembered that damp alone is in itself conducive to many maladies, which it is our aim to remove.

I visit the district daily and have made several inspections during the year to keep myself acquainted with the various sanitary requirements.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. SMAILES, M.D., L.S.Sc.

Medical Officer of Health.

Honley,

January 20th, 1897.

BIRTHS AND MORTALITY RATE, 1896.

		Births.	Average per 1,000.	Deaths	Average per 1,000.
1st Quarter	..	14	18·06	19	24·54
2nd	„	17	22·09	14	18·06
3rd	„	14	18·06	11	14·21
4th	„	20	25·84	8	10·33
		65	21·00	52	16·79

ANNUAL RATES PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING RATES OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR FOR THE WEST-RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Respiratory Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
S. Crosland	1895..	19·38	16·47	0·974	2·26	3·24	166
	1896..	21·00	16·79	2·26	·97	2·9	123
West-Riding, 1895..		31·1	18·8	2·1	1·4	3·6	163

CASES REPORTED UNDER INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Year.	Small-Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Cholera	Total.
1892	..	5	30	1	1	..	2	..	39
1893	..	4	10	2	..	1	2	..	19
1894	..	3	1	1	1	..	2	..	8
1895	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	6
1896	..	3	2	..	3	..	1	..	9

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

TO THE

South Crosland Urban District Council,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

During the year there have been 36 cases of nuisance, and 2 remained over from 1895, making a total of 38. Thirty-seven have been abated, and 1 remains on hand.

Two old privies have been pulled down, and 2 new privies and 1 ashpit have been erected.

Thirteen drains have been trapped. Eight sink-pipes have been disconnected, and 4 ventilation shafts have been erected on private property.

The Sewage Filtration Works have been kept constantly working, and they have yielded good results, an immense quantity of sediment having been taken from them, the cost of which has been £38 13s. 0d.

In the Scavenging Department, 552 loads of night-soil have been carted away, 60 loads of domestic rubbish have been collected, 3773 tubs have been emptied, 5366 privies and 1238 ashpits have been cleaned out and disinfected, the cost of which has been for manual labour £38 4s. 6½d.

	No. of loads of Night-soil.	No. of loads of rubbish collected.	No. of Tubs emptied.	No. of Ashpits emptied.	No. of Privies emptied.	Cost for Manual Labour.
1895	537	75	3645	1085	5364	38 12 6
1896	552	60	3773	1238	5366	38 4 6½

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. MELLOR.

